From: Governors' Biofuels Coalition [larry@governorscoalition.org]

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**Subject**: Today's Biofuels News

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NEWS UPDATE October 1, 2019

#### **Top Story**

#### White House Proposed Biofuel Plan

# Trump Impeachment Fight Is Hurting the Market for Biofuel Credits

By Mario Parker and Jennifer A Dlouhy, Bloomberg 

Posted October 1, 2019

During Trump's last major meeting on the issue, the president told oil-state senators there was no reason RINs tracking ethanol consumption should exceed 10 cents, according to two people familiar with the matter. However, there was no consensus on how to keep those costs in check, such as by price caps, rebates or EPA sales of waiver credits. Without any White House agreement on a cost-containment mechanism — much less support from biofuel producers who opposed price caps — the idea further stalled progress on a final package. "He obviously tried to thread the

needle," said Craig Irwin, an analyst at Roth Capital Partners LLC. "Now he's too distracted to make the decision." [ read more ... ]

#### Trade

## On U.S. delisting threat, China says 'decoupling' would harm both sides

By Michael Martina, Reuters • • Posted September 30, 2019

China warned on Monday of instability in international markets from any "decoupling" of China and the United States, after sources said the Trump administration was considering delisting Chinese companies from U.S. stock exchanges. The move would be part of a broader effort to limit U.S. investment in Chinese companies, two sources briefed on the matter told Reuters last week, in what would be a radical escalation of U.S.-China trade tensions. The news had earlier been reported by Bloomberg.. [ read more ... ]

#### Car Rule

#### Auto Makers Set to Meet With Justice Department on Antitrust Probe

By Brent Kendall, Wall Street Journal • Posted September 30, 2019

The justice department itself faces questions about its decision to press an issue with political overtones. The meetings would mark the first substantive discussions between the two sides since the Justice Department sent an inquiry letter a month ago seeking information about an agreement on greenhouse-gas emissions that Ford Motor Co. , Honda Motor Co. , BMW AG and Volkswagen AG reached recently with the California Air Resources Board.

[ read more ... ]

#### Daschle, Sombke Call Pending SAFE Rule the Path to Higher Ethanol Volumes

By Karla Hofhenke, SDFU Executive Director • • Posted September 30, 2019

Former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle joined with South Dakota Farmers Union President Doug Sombke in calling for the Trump Administration to use the pending fuel economy rule as a solution to the current ethanol and agriculture crisis. In a wide-ranging interview on a popular South Dakota Business Radio program, Sombke and Daschle stressed that moving to high octane gasoline is a way to build on the success of the Renewable Fuel Standard. The path to get there is through the Safe Affordable Fuel Efficiency (SAFE) rule currently being finalized by the Trump Administration. [ read more ... ]

## **Policy & Politics**

## How U.S. fossil fuels are tied to Ukraine and impeach

By Scott Waldman and Benjamin Storrow, E&E News reporters • • Posted September 30, 2019

The Eastern European nation sits at the crossroads of Europe and Russia. Today, roughly a third of Russian gas consumed in Europe passes through Ukraine. That has made the country uniquely susceptible to Russian meddling. Moscow has twice cut off gas supplies to Ukraine in the past 15 years and stopped selling directly to the country after the onset of the civil war there in 2014. The prospect of a third shutoff looms at the end of the year, when the current transit

agreement between Russia and Ukraine is set to expire. [ read more ... ]

#### **Opinion**

#### Minnesota farmers need D.C. to restore ethanol market

By Brian Thalmann, Minneapolis Star Tribune • • Posted September 30, 2019

Last week, Gov. Tim Walz visited my farm, where he announced the formation of a biofuels council tasked with promoting the use of renewable fuels in our state. Lowering emissions and improving air quality with biofuels is a win for all Minnesotans. For the state's corn farmers, it offers some hope for a vital market that has been decimated by actions in Washington, D.C. The latest blow to the ethanol industry came last month, when the Environmental Protection Agency granted an additional 31 small refinery waivers. Since the announcement, corn prices declined 15% in an already depressed farm economy. [ read more ... ]

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